Why Bubble?

The name ‘Bubble’ captures the diversity of tribal cultures, and the fragility of those cultures in the technological world of today. Although most cultures are now highly influenced by technology; physical, educational and economic barriers continue to allow for cultural isolation. This form of isolation changes how technological influences are perceived. We may be watching the same television shows but our world view alters the way we interpret the story line. These new ‘Bubbles’ will continue to influence the evolution of tribal arts and culture as well as that of the Western world.

Cultures have influenced each other for as long as humans have been wandering the earth. Think of the historically recent impact of tea, gunpowder and chocolate on European culture. Further, the arrival of Europeans in North America had an influence on European and indigenous American fashion with trade in furs and glass beads transforming both cultures.

Spirituality is also influenced by cultural exchange. Christianity replaced pagan beliefs in many European countries, but the pagan rituals and traditions did not disappear. These traditions transformed into some of the most beloved ‘Christian’ traditions. The winter solstice festivals became Christmas – the return of the sun became the birth of a savior. The pagan symbol of rebirth and spring, the egg, became a symbol of Easter and resurrection. The juxtaposition of seemingly unrelated or opposing things allows them to become more interesting through contrast. Mundane grocery items are transformed into powerful spiritual talismans of protection; ‘modern’ art borrowed heavily from the influence of tribal or ‘primitive’ art; a bubble – something transparent, fleeting, fragile paired with the earthy, enduring, wood, stone and bone tribal artefacts.

Bubbles drift, collide, burst and merge one into another. Just as fashion, food, warfare, and spirituality have been influenced by cultural exchange, so has art. Art is a reflection of the spirituality of a culture. It is the symbolism and meaning behind a work of art that intrigues us. Craftsmanship is also important, and the combination of a skillfully crafted piece with spiritual or symbolic meaning creates a masterpiece.

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